

Volunteers: your questions answered – 4

*This series of information sheets has been developed to help you recruit, train and retain volunteers, both disabled and able-bodied, to support sailing programmes which include disabled people. To safeguard yourself and your volunteers, please ensure that you also read the series entitled **Volunteers - essential information**, available from www.rya.org.uk/AboutRYA/RYSailability/Bestpracticemanual.htm*

Finding volunteers

Sheet 1 identified who your volunteers are likely to be, and pointed out that they may be people motivated by an interest in sailing, or by a disability interest. It may be helpful to remember these two interests when you're trying to find potential volunteers.

An interest in sailing

You can start very close to home by contacting family and friends of existing club members, and former club members who may be volunteering elsewhere. Encourage your young members to recruit volunteers of the same age, and ask your existing volunteers to bring friends along. Don't forget to put an appeal in your club newsletter and local paper! Submit your article during the winter – when they're not sailing, and they've got the time to read it!

It's also worth contacting youth and community workers, who may be able to put you in touch with potential volunteers.

Finally, you can put posters in:

- Doctors' surgeries
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Churches
- Arts centres
- Colleges
- Volunteer bureaux
- Job centres
- Cinemas
- Websites
- Cafés
- Leisure centres
- Sports clubs
- Sailing events
- Sailing shops/ chandlers

A disability interest

Some of the above poster sites may also attract people with a disability interest. Additionally, contact groups that are looking for volunteering opportunities, such as:

- Uniformed youth organisations
- Military services
- Fire, ambulance and police services
- Student groups
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme
- Youth clubs

Get your club's name and details into relevant publications, including volunteer handbooks and directories and give talks to local groups. These might include Rotary, WI and community associations, and you would do well to ask a volunteer to help by explaining what he/she does at your club. Remember, if you have a contact, just ask him/her to volunteer. Whether you call, write, e-mail or phone, it's difficult to refuse a direct request!